SUGGESTED DISCUSSION TOPICS

As an RBS Program Visitor, you are well trained in all facets of Partner Program Visitation. This guide is not intended as a training tool but is simply an aid to assist you in discussing key points of boating safety with Partners. There are many topics to choose from so you can concentrate on different subject matter with each Program Visit. Here are some suggested discussion talking points that may one day help save someone's life.

LIFE JACKETS

- In 85% of all boating related drownings, the person was not wearing a life jacket.
- Are they the proper size & comfortable?
- Immediately available vs. readily available
- Discuss how to test-fit for a child
- What should be attached:
  - Whistle
  - Mirror
  - PLB
  - Light
- Discuss inflatables
  - Pros and cons
  - Age requirements
- Throwables

DISTRESS SIGNALS

FLARES:

- Check the expiration dates
- Use "old" flares first--- explain why
- Dry & serviceable?
- Discuss how to operate

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS:

- How many are required
- Discuss types
- Explain PASS technique
- Discuss manufacturer's suggested 12 year life span (but still meets USCG requirements)

Ventilation

- Discuss the 4 minute rule

SOUND PRODUCING DEVICES

- What good is a whistle if you are in the water and the whistle in your tackle box?
- What is THE distress signal?

NAVIGATION LIGHTS

- Why are they important if you never go out after dark?

MARINE RADIOS

- Why not just carry a cell phone?
- RESCUE 21
- DSC
- Hand-held vs. mounted

FUELING AND FUEL MANAGEMENT

- Discuss the 1/3 rule

ADDITIONAL SAFETY EQUIPMENT…The VSC requires only the minimum in safety equipment.

While with the boater, learn the type of boating they do. You can then discuss what added safety equipment you suggest they carry aboard:

- Anchor and rode
- Extra anchor
- Dewatering bucket
- Charts
- First Aid kit
- GPS / PLB / EPIRB
- Weather issues
- Rescue throw lines
- Survival Tips
- Spare lines
- Additional fenders
- Extra water, on those hot days

ADDITIONAL TOPICS TO DISCUSS

Preventing alcohol use while on the water cannot be stressed enough. While one beer may not seem to be a lot, ask the boater to consider how it might affect their reaction time should someone fall overboard or an intoxicated boater veer in front of them. Would they consider drinking a beer while driving home from picking up their children after school?

Boater Safety classes are a must if we are going to reduce boating fatalities. Most boaters involved in an accident have never taken a boater safety course! A short description for each of our Auxiliary Boater Safety Classes is listed in this pocket guide.

Filing a float plan…If no one knows they are missing, how long will it take before a search is started? Explain why and how to use a **float plan**. The act of leaving the necessary information with a neighbor might save their life!

Paddlecraft operators may require a little more attention than others boaters we interface with. In many cases, the paddlecrafter has no boating experience and, in fact, often does not even consider themselves to be a boater. Many of the things we take for granted are new and informative to the novice paddlecrafter.

Some paddlecraft topics you might discuss include:

- Bright colored protective clothing
- Whistle
- Self rescue techniques / equipment
- Extra water / energy snack
- Marine radio
- IF FOUND decal (and its purpose)
- Chart /compass
- Flashlight

BOATER SAFETY COURSES

http://www.cgaux.org/boatinged/class_finder/index.php

Our courses provide instruction to boaters at all levels. Our classes are taught by experienced and knowledgeable instructors committed to the highest standards of the U.S. Coast Guard.

About Boating Safely - An introductory course to give students the knowledge needed to obtain a boat safety certification in many states. Many boat insurance companies will offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete About Boating Safely.

Boating Skills and Seamanship - Our most in depth course designed for both the experienced and the novice boater.

Sailing Skills and Seamanship - Designed to prepare a sailor with the basic information needed to operate sailboats under a variety of conditions.

Suddenly In Command - A 2-4 hour boating safety primer is designed for those not generally at the helm, designed to help you to be prepared with the basics in case of an emergency.

How to Read a Nautical Chart - This course will provide the navigator with the knowledge to interpret the chart's contents to navigate safely to their destination and return to port. Text and training chart included.

GPS For Mariners:
Designed for those desiring to learn fundamental nautical GPS skills. Basic navigation skills are included to the extent required to understand GPS operations.

What you should know before you go: A Paddlers Guide to Safety - Safety basics for new paddlers, developed by the Auxiliary and the American Canoe Association.

Modern Marine Navigation - This is an on-line self-study course, produced with BoatUS Foundation. It covers traditional and electronic navigation and includes links to many useful websites, downloads and videos.

USCG BOATING SAFETY APP

http://www.uscg.mil/mobile/

FEATURES OF THE APP INCLUDE

- Find the latest safety regulations
- Request a vessel safety check
- Check your safety equipment
- File a float plan
- Navigation Rules
- Find the nearest NOAA buoy
- Report a hazard
- Report pollution
- Report suspicious activity
- Request emergency assistance

As location services are enabled, users can receive the latest weather reports from the closest NOAA weather buoys as well as reports on the location of a hazard on the water.

The app also features an Emergency Assistance button, which, as locations services enabled, will call the closest USCG command center.

The app was not designed to replace a boater's marine VHF radio that the Coast Guard strongly recommends for all boaters to have aboard. The app was designed to provide additional boating safety resources for mobile device users.

The app is self-contained. Information is stored on the phone and is not sent to the Coast Guard unless the user chooses to send it. The Coast Guard does not track a user's location, and the app does not track your location unless the app is actively being used.

A POCKET GUIDE TO USCG AUXILIARY PROGRAM VISTORS

PROVIDED BY
Vessel Examination
and Partner Visitation Directorate